

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 6TH, 1875.

The *Fortnightly Review* for August contains no less than three articles bearing on subjects connected with countries east of Suez. Whether this be the result of an increased interest among British politicians in Eastern matters, or of an accident, there is no evidence to show. Of these three articles the one which will naturally inspire most interest in China is "The Inheritance of the Great Mogul," by Sir Rutherford Alcock, late British Minister at the Court of Peking. This gentleman, since retiring from his post, has sought to bring himself prominently into notice as a great authority on Eastern questions. His claim to such pretensions rests, however, on comparatively slender foundations. As a diplomatist he was considered somewhat a failure by almost all the British residents in China, and it is pretty well known that his knowledge of Chinese literature was of the most limited description. It is true that though he was no proficient in the language, he understood its value to others, and recommended its study to the English merchants at Shanghai, sage advice which they doubtless fully appreciated. But it is unlikely that they or any other British community in China would allow Sir Rutherford Alcock's claim to speak with very much authority on affairs in China. No doubt the British public will speedily discover, what the residents out here have long known, the incapacity of Sir Rutherford to deal with great public questions. His article in the *Fortnightly*, wonderfully discursive as it is, is not, however, devoid of interest, for there is much imported matter in it not uninteresting in itself.

Sir Rutherford has, it is apparent, taken Colouel Xulie's book as a peg on which to hang his own speculations. These are of a decidedly speculative character, and it is somewhat difficult to find out the conclusions he arrives at. This is increased by Sir Rutherford's go-off-at-a-word propensity, which often confuses his readers. After a patient and careful perusal of an inconsequent article—a patchwork cover without design or aim—we have at length arrived at them. Before doing so, it was necessary to excise some pages of irrelevant matter regarding the genius, language, and antiquity of the Chinese people; much diplomatic verbiage, meaning nothing, concerning the balance of power in Central Asia; needed pruning; and a variety of speculations about the advance of a Chinese army from behind the angle of the Great Wall had to be sifted, before the balance could be struck and the net result ascertained. This in effect would appear to be somewhat as follows: Sir Rutherford considers that England, Russia, and China are the joint heirs of the Great Mongol conquerors, and that, as is usual with the inheritors of a divided estate, they are disagreeing with regard to their share of the inheritance. From China, England has little to fear, though she is advancing an army from behind "the angle of the Great Wall" which may possibly curtail British trade a little. Russia—the Great White Khan—is, or should be, the source of anxiety to England. The rude but hardy and warlike tribes of Central Asia are, he tells us, being civilised to some extent by the Muscovite Government. Russia, again, for the extension of her commerce, is building cities, making roads over glaciers and mountain passes, and employing these tribes in the construction of works which would prove equally—if not more—essential in war as in time of peace. Genghis Khan and Tamerlane have crossed mountain chains and mighty rivers before; what, then, is to prevent another, and perhaps more formidable, gathering of these hordes together, under Russian leadership, marching down the valleys of the Himalaya, finding India at their feet, and the best European troops and garrisons almost powerless to oppose them?

Sir Rutherford Alcock evidently repose little reliance in the valour and efficiency of the British army in India. He undoubtedly under-estimates the difficulties in the path of an invading force. There is no occasion for uneasiness on the score of a Russian invasion of India. Of course it is well for England to look that her arms are bright, and be prepared for any eventuality, but it is very doubtful whether Russia ever cherished any serious designs upon our Eastern Empire. In justice to Sir Rutherford, it must be said that after making this alarming suggestion, he afterwards expresses the opinion that the Northern Colossus is more likely to seek a southern outlet for her trade in the Gulf of Persia, than through India or China. The former would prove too hard a nut to crack; the latter is too big and indigestible a morsel to swallow. After all there is nothing new in Sir Rutherford's article. We have had alarmist articles on the Eastern question *et cetera*, and the same theories have more or less pervaded them. It is now pretty generally understood that Russia is not satisfied with her present "Aboda of Snow," and would fain acquire some territory in more genial regions. She sighs, too, for the riches of the south, for the outlets they afford for trade, and which are now closed to her. When the opportunity comes she will certainly endeavour to secure some outlet, and the weakest country will certainly become her prey. But England need not feel much anxiety on this score, though, of course, it is necessary she should watch the movements of her big neighbour and rival in Asia. The latter will always be found ready to profit from any complications or struggles that may arise in the East. English statesmen are, however, we believe, well acquainted with the fact, and it need not the Cassandra-like pen of a Sir Rutherford Alcock to rouse them to a sense of the position.

The actual receipts from six sales of Bengal opium and five monthly days of Malwa opium, have exceeded the estimated amount by £231,642. This is entirely due to Bengal opium, as the Malwa opium duty has been less than the estimate by £45,197.

The San Francisco Tea market on the 28th August was well supplied with both China and Japan. Compt. Dolger, of the former, at all times commands the market, while each and every importer who has his own brand of paper tea, of which he makes a specialty. Auction prices largely rule—say for Standard Japan, 45 to 50.

The ship *Holton* left San Francisco for Manila on the 24th August.

The bark *Mardon* arrived at San Francisco on the 20th August to discharge her Hongkong cargo.

A Government notification has been published in one of the Manila journals, confirming the report of the intended construction of railways in the Philippines.

We are requested to state that the ram *Paradise* Lays, captured at the Police Court on Monday will be disposed of, is not employed at Captain Sande Slip.

M. S. Ridge went round the Island yesterday to try his engine. The Surveyor General is now abroad, and he proceeded out West to try the Green Island Light.

We observe that one of our Indian contemporaries has made an alteration in its title. The *Indian Statesman* has become *The Statesman*. This change was effected on the 14th ult.

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire yesterday morning found that they had lost their Agents at China, for which they are to blame. The A.G.S. Co.'s steamer *Hector* in native ports, Amoy, and that assistance has been sent to her.

The export of gunny bags from Calcutta to China and the Straits this year shows large increase. During the four months, May to August, inclusive, there were 5,623,555 exported against 1,942,500 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Whilst paragraphs have been going the round of the press, saying that the contemporary to the late British Minister, Sir Rutherford Alcock, was lost for six months in charge of James E. Jones and a few others, we are to learn that Mr. Newell has been officiating as Assistant Political Agent there from the 20th of April to the 21st of August.

It is reported by the *Bombay Gazette* that a German Portuguese, of the name of António Camilo De Souza, has been appointed chief butler to His Majesty the King of Burma on a salary of seven ounces of gold per annum, and is said to be the eldest son of Captain Pedro De Souza, an Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor-General of India.

By the San Francisco papers received yesterday we learn of the death of Mr. Ralston, the manager of the Bank of California. He was drowned while bathing. The rumours that he had taken poison are believed to be without foundation. Mr. Ralston was universally respected in San Francisco, to which city he had been a generous benefactor.

The engineers' stokerage of the steamer *Paradise*, Henry Jordan, was drowned at Shanghai, says the *Daily News*, under somewhat peculiar circumstances on the 23rd ulto. He had been had on shore during the evening, and returned to board early in the morning, saying he had found a boat which had been adrift, and he fell against a rope stretched across a side gangway. The rope being slack he fell over it, and it is surmised that he must have struck something in the fall, as he never rose again, although every effort was made to rescue him.

ACCIDENT TO THE INGENIOUS ENGLISH MAIL STEAMER.

The following was issued by the Postmaster-General yesterday morning:—Information has been received that the *Rashgar* with the English Mail having broken down at Singapore, the mails have been transferred to the *Agamemnon*. The marine seaman sent down to take charge of the mail having been taken ill at Singapore, and being unable to proceed on board the *Rashgar*, he was sent to the *Agamemnon*, which the mail was taken out under Ordinance S of 1871. It was taken out for the captain to answer why he carried more passengers. The *Agamemnon* acts as a mail steamer for adult, two children counting one sailor. The vessel cleared from Amoy with her full number of passengers on board, namely 222, and she called into Swatow and took on board 152, which were in excess. The penalty for this was £500. It was not intended the defendant should be presented to the extreme.

M. F. Sampson, boarding officer in the Harbour-masters' office, appeared to prosecute, and the summons was taken out on him. Mr. Sharp, the *Agamemnon* collector, appeared to prosecute, and the summons was taken out on him. The *Agamemnon* hoisted the three-masted flag of the M. B. S. S. Co., *Japan Gazette*.

YEDO.

On the 19th ultimo, fifty-six houses were entered by robbers in Tokio, and five persons were found drowned in the various rivers.

A mercantile school at Otarwashi was to be opened on the 1st of October. Mr. Whitney, American, had been appointed principal.

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THE CHINESE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

The Chinese continue to flock in large numbers to the United States, as shown by the statistics of alien arrivals in California, and the average number of Chinese in the United States is now 100,000.

The *China Mail* says that the Chinese in California are to be found in San Francisco, and another in San Francisco, and the Chinese in San Francisco are to be found in San Francisco.

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Extracts.

SONG.

I'm sitting by the window
On a light afternoon;
I'm thinking of the June days
That passed away so soon;
I'm thinking of a fair face,
A face that ever seen;
And I take good-bye to summer,
And the glory of the green.

In with the fresh blazes,
In with the jamboree;
A world of mirth could never
My every heart keep.
Till I bethold their fair face,
The dearest ever seen;
I sigh good-bye to summer,
And the glory of the green.

Despatch.

THE ENGLISH BORDER.

As sinks the man behind you alien hills,
Whose leather-jacketed steps, it glory rallied,
Finish all my thought with momentary bold,
That proudest page may yet my fury tell?
How far the world is wide,
Where the sky belied its dreams unfold,
And memory's pleasure takes now sights seen old;
As when the life some varnished dream falls;
Yet not to us below these painted seas,
Land we've seen before, darkened eyes,
From far beyond the world, and the horizon,
Horizons take, that wait their rise.
The stream before me fades and disappears,
And in the Charles the western splendour dies.

—J. R. Lowell, in the Atlantic Monthly.

ONE FOR MASTER LAWYER.

A well-known barrister at the criminal bar, who prides himself upon his skill in cross-examining a witness, has a well-aimed jibe at the Corse Legislatif. — "You saw that the prisoner is in this?" — "Yes, sir, 'cause why she confessed it." — "And you also saw she bawled when you asked her questions to the witness?" — "I do sir." — "Then, giving a sagacious look at the court, we are to understand that you employ dishonest people to work for you, even after their names are known?" — "Of course! how else could I get assistance from a lawyer?" — The barrister said "Stand aside."

HAVING HIS MONEY'S WORTH.

Among the crowded round a hotel dinner-table in Detroit recently were a husband and wife from Wisconsin, going east by the night train. She was much the younger, and

fashionable within; while he was like an old bear. As they sat down she was heard to whisper, "Remember, now, and eat with your fork." He started off all right, but pretty soon she caught him feeding his mouth with his knife, and she nudged him, and whispered, "You have forgotten; use your fork." He began again; but it wasn't two minutes before she had to prompt him once more. He made still another start and another failure, and as she whispered to him he threw down knife and fork, and growled, "Now, see here, Murry; it's twelve shillings whether we fill up or go hungry, and I'm going to eat six shillings' worth if it loses a whole set of case knives down my throat!" She had nothing more to say—at least, so runs the story; but doubtless she had a good deal more to say when they got home.

ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN BREATH.

An account published in *Nature* of some experiments made with a view to determine the organic matter of the human breath in health and disease presents some facts of a peculiarly interesting nature. The breath of eleven healthy persons and of seventeen affected by different disorders was examined, the persons being of different sexes and ages, and the time of day at which the breath was conduced varying. — The vapor of the breath was condensed in a large glass flask surrounded by ice and salt, at a temperature of several degrees below zero, the fluid thus collected being then analyzed for free ammonia, urea, and kindred substances, also for organic ammonia. Among the various results of this examination may be mentioned the fact that, in both health and disease, the free ammonia varied considerably; the variation, however, could not be connected with the time of the day, the fasting, or full condition. Urea was sought for in fifteen instances—three healthy persons and twelve cases of disease; but it was only found in two cases of kidney disease, in one case of diaphoresis, and a faint indication of its presence was found in a female suffering from catarrh. The quantity of ammonia arising from the destruction of organic matter also varied, probably from the oxidation of albuminous particles by the process of respiration; but in healthy persons there was a remarkable uniformity in the total quantity of ammonia obtained by the process.

PREHISTORIC GRAIN AND FRUIT.

Carbonized vegetable remains have been preserved in great abundance and variety, to assist, as it were, in calculating the mode of life of ancient lake-dwellers. They undoubtedly raised barley, wheat, and millet, several kinds of each of these cereals having been found in the lacustrine deposits. Some of these species of grain were cultivated in Egypt, and therefore are believed to have found their way from the country to Switzerland. Rye was known to the colonists, and oats too before bronze had come into use. Barley and wheat appear either in grains, sometimes in considerable quantities, or, more rarely, still retain the shape of ears; and even carbonized wheat bread, in which the bran and the imperfectly crushed grains can be distinctly seen, has been found at Robenhausen and Wangen. This unleavened prehistoric bread, which is very coarse and compact, occurs mostly in fragments, but sometimes in the form of small, roundish cakes about an inch or an inch and a half thick, and was doubtless baked by placing the dough on hot stones, and covering it over with glowing ashes. Millet was employed in a similar manner for making bread. It is probable, however, that the lake people consumed their farinaceous food chiefly in the shape of porridge. Carbonized apples of small size, identical with those growing wild in the woods of Switzerland, have been found abundantly, and in a tolerable state of preservation. Mr. Messikommer discovered in one occasion more than 300 of them lying close together. They are often cut in halves, more rarely in three or four parts, and were evidently dried for consumption during winter. Whether a larger kind of apple, found at Robenhausen, was cultivated or a wild growing species, remains undecided. Prof. Oswald Heer, of Zurich, who has published interesting work on lacustrine vegetable remains, inclines to the former view. Wild pears were treated in the same manner; but they are far less common than apples, which must have formed a much-sought article of diet. Among other vegetable remains accumulated in the lake mud may be mentioned hazel-nuts and beech-nuts, both in great plenty; also water chestnuts, which doubtless were collected and eaten by the lake-men, as they are in Upper Italy at this day. Their present occurrence in Switzerland appears to be restricted to a farm in the Canton of Lucerne. There have, further been found abundantly the stones of sizes, bird-cherries and wild plums, and seeds of the raspberry, blackberry, and strawberry, showing that these fruits of the forest were used as food. According to Dr. Kehler, the lake colonists of the Stone Age drew their sustenance chiefly from the vegetable kingdom. Their animal food evidently was supplied by hunting rather than by breeding of cattle, considering that in the accumulations around the piles the bones of wild animals outnumber those of the domestic species. Milk, we may assume, formed an important article of their diet.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LATE MR. FELIX WHITEHURST'S "PRIVATE DIARY DURING THE SIEGE OF PARIS."

THE FATAL SUNDAY, THE FOURTH OF SEPTEMBER.

"Paris, or, at least, a large section of it, arose mad with Republican excitement. Any one used to the study of the features of Paris could read in a minute that affairs were serious. We were awakened by the cries of 'Armes! Armes!' 'Down with the tyrants!' 'A Berlin!' as thousand after thousand of National Guards poured by on their way to ask for the destruction of the Empire, and for arms to save Paris. Who were still under the rule of the Regent 'Shouts of Republic!' 'Abdicate!' 'Vive la Ligue!' 'Vive la Garde Nationale!' were heard on all sides. Several false reports were in circulation, and every one asked every one, 'Is it proclaimed?' 'Yes, 'Vive la République!' The president—old Schmitz—was—when later they denounced as the 'assassin of France' and whose venerable head one fine and enlightened citizen punched, tried to speak, but all to no effect. Gambetta followed with no better fate. Outside the scene was ominous. The crowd advanced to the city of 'Vive la Garde Nationale!' and that corps opened their ranks and let the mob through; then the Garde Chavel fled off two by two, and then once again the Corps Legislatif was in the hands of the people. They took possession with a rush and filled the house and court-yard. Women seemed to me to be in the majority in this House, in which, for once, there was no division, for the sovereign people ousted the deputies. Right, Left, and Centre. The great majority, which had been the delight of Imperialists for so long, melted into thin air, and some fifteen of the very extreme Left drove off in cabs to the Hotel de Ville, and formed a Provisional Government, by what right nobody can conceive; but no doubt it was that Divine right of impudence, which will tell everywhere, from a battle to a bull-room. The Republic was proclaimed, and the real royal liberty commenced."

DISMISSAL OF THE GERMANS FROM PARIS.

"Among the Germans sent away are all the various arms of troops—sweeps, they hailing entirely from the Vatertor, and so since Sunday the streets have neither been swept nor watered, neither have the gutters been cleaned. I never really missed Hausmann till to-day, when walking on his own boulevard. He was a great man, and a tidy Abou five o'clock two batteries of mitrailleuses came in. At a distance they look like brass gun-cannons. Their effect, I hear, is that they do not spread enough. The balls are half as big again as the chassepot cartridges. Yes, it was a grand sight, a day of deep humiliation to France (though the Parisians seemed to take it so well that, with another division, and half-an-hour's more music, they would have applauded), and a golden page in the history of Prussia, and I never saw more wear or more sad. I have lived long in Paris, and it is terrible to see even a section of a people with whom you have been born in all the relations of life, dancing over the grave of their own country. So thus Prussia march into Paris, and avenged the popular, not Imperial cry, 'Berlin, Friday, March 3rd.'—On this day, four hours before the appointed time, the Prussians left Paris. Before the last man was out of sight, a Frenchman hinted that the King was afraid to come in, and another had asserted that in five years' we shall be in Berlin. At night Paris was in fits. Will no lesson instruct them?"

THE BLAISE IN A DISGRACEFUL SITUATION.

"My wife and myself were strolling away towards the station, when an important little man, in full National Guard uniform, and the popular 'Imperial' cockade, a wide-thin bayonet, a wide-awake, came up and said, 'Monsieur must come with me to headquarters over the way.' I replied, 'Anything to oblige National Guard; but is it permitted to ask why?' 'Monsieur will know,' said my hero, sternly; and then, with a guard and his bayonet on each side, we proceeded into the presence of the officer in command of the district. He was a fat general, with a staff of about twenty officers, mostly fat also, two of whom spoke English after a fashion, and the rest only understood French. They were all in full uniform, and looked fine, if not imposing. It was a droll scene. Somebody at once offered my wife a chair, and she sat down, looking so amused that I dare not laugh at her for fear of breaking out into an instant laughter. I said, 'I am an English resident in Paris; here is my passport.' 'What's the matter with you?' asked a military secretary, rather surprised at the sudden announcement of my country and my residence, and what do you want?' 'Not much the matter, said I, 'only the military gentlemen in the brown paletot has been good enough to arrest me, and I suppose he knows why. I don't. Then my accuser came forth! Louis Junius Brutus could not have denounced a traitor with more ardor. He was all of wit in his speech, and the other red for action, he spoke as follows:—'Citizen! I have caused this person to be arrested (he had done it himself) because he has been for three hours on the ramparts, sometimes alone, sometimes with the other person in the chair!—Stop, my dear citizen, I said, 'you are a bad judge of time. It is now five o'clock. I left Paris at three o'clock, and we were one hour coming down, so how could I have been three hours on your ramparts?' 'But,' interrupted a tall (judging from his size a very full) colonel, 'what business had you there so late?' 'None as a hero, and so, not wishing to be shot, I never, though I have a very good 'pass,' tried to go there.' 'Humph!' (Accuser, looking smaller and less important, comes to 'attention'). 'Your paper!' says military secretary No. 2. (Accuser 'grounds arms' and smiles). 'Here is my passport.' 'Ore nom d'un chien! it is very old, ten years!' (Accuser shacks his hands). 'Seventeen, I think,' I said, and showed Earl of Ormond's well known signature. He will enter no office, never a workshop; he invents trades and industries, and utilizes his inventions independently.

One of the most curious, albeit the simplest, of the foreign dealers in London is that of the itinerant dealer in foreign books and newspapers. It is a commerce of quite recent growth, dating, the best authorities have it, from the French, German, and Italian prescriptions of 1848-50. What the cities did before that date to procure books for the mind it is impossible to say. Perhaps it is, however, that the 'volumes of 1848-50' are comparatively better provided with literature than their predecessors of 1848. Indeed, literature is as wait for them, at every street corner offers itself to them; perhaps they had never learned to read. But, however that may be, it is very certain that the 'volumes of 1848-50' are comparatively better provided with literature than their predecessors of 1848. Indeed, literature is as wait for them, at every street corner offers itself to them; perhaps they had never learned to read. 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